



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Susan Gerhart or Susan.Gerhart@NOAA.gov
727/824-5305, FAX 727/824-5308

September 24, 2007

FB07-038

GOLDEN TILEFISH COMMERCIAL FISHERY CLOSED IN FEDERAL WATERS OF THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

The commercial fishery for golden tilefish in the South Atlantic federal waters, or exclusive economic zone (EEZ), is **closed, effective 12:00 noon (local time) October 3, 2007**, through December 31, 2007. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service has determined the 2007 commercial quota of 295,000 pounds for golden tilefish has been reached.

Closure of the golden tilefish fishery in the South Atlantic complies with regulations implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for the Snapper-Grouper Fishery in the South Atlantic Region and is necessary to protect the golden tilefish resource. In cooperative actions, Atlantic states (North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida) are expected to close commercial harvest of golden tilefish concurrently in adjoining state waters.

This closure is based on an analysis of commercial landings data that indicates the fishery will harvest its quota by October 3. Only ten days notice is provided because we considered the most recent data available, which helps ensure the fishery has access to its total quota and the fishing season is extended as long as possible.

During the closure, the appropriate bag limits apply to all harvest or possession of golden tilefish in or from the South Atlantic EEZ, and the sale or purchase of golden tilefish taken from the EEZ is prohibited. No person aboard a vessel for which a commercial permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper has been issued may possess golden tilefish in excess of the bag limit, or sell or purchase golden tilefish, without regard to where it has been harvested.

The operator of a vessel with a valid commercial vessel permit for South Atlantic snapper-grouper having golden tilefish aboard must have landed and bartered, traded, or sold such golden tilefish prior to 12:00 noon, local time, October 3, 2007. The prohibition on sale or purchase does not apply to sale or purchase of golden tilefish that were harvested, landed ashore, and sold prior to 12:00 noon, local time, October 3, 2007, and were held in cold storage by a dealer or processor.

How can we improve these fishery bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist

Phone: 727-551-5707

FAX: 727-824-5320

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a hard copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include: (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

This bulletin provides only a summary of the information regarding the existing regulations. Any discrepancies between this bulletin and the regulations as published in the *Federal Register* will be resolved in favor of the *Federal Register*.